

THE MAZET REFERENCE

As stated in Mazet:

[O]ne particularly economical embodiment of the method proposed by the invention this method consists in determining the fuel pressure at the pump output on the basis of at least one relationship between said pump output pressure and at least one of *the operating parameters of the pump*, which are the instantaneous rotation speed of the pump, the mean supply current of an electric motor driving the pump and the thermal state of the pump [Column 3, lines 4-12, Emphasis added].

Mazet therefore describes comparing a pressure measured downstream of a fuel filter with a pressure upstream of the fuel filter, or as he states, a pressure "assimilated" with a pressure at a pump output. Mazet either measures the pressure at the pump outlet directly, or infers it based on operating parameters of the *pump*. As shown above, Mazet specifically lists operating parameters of the pump as instantaneous rotation speed of the pump, the mean supply current of an electric motor driving the pump, and the thermal state of the pump. Mazet does not teach nor imply considering operating parameters of the engine. One of skill in the art would recognize that the pump parameters set forth by Mazet are not engine operating parameters. These pump parameters are independent of engine parameters because Mazet's pump is independently driven by an electric motor and not the engine. Mazet does *not* describe or suggest determining a *predetermined value based on at least one engine operating parameter* as stated in independent claims 1 and 14, nor *determining a predetermined value that is a function of at least one engine operating parameter* as stated in Independent claim 7.

Hence, the applicant respectfully submits that Independent claims 1, 7, and 14, as previously amended, and all of their respective dependent claims, may be passed to allowance.

Furthermore, claims 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12, 13, 15-17, 19, and 20 are dependent upon an independent claim that is shown to be allowable. For all these reasons, the dependent claims are themselves allowable.

3. Claims 3, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Mazet in view of Amano. As described above, Mazet does not teach nor imply a *predetermined value based on at least one engine operating parameter* as stated in independent

claims 1, 7, and 14. Amano also does not teach or imply *a predetermined value based on at least one engine operating parameter* as stated in independent claims 1, 7, and 14.

Amano teaches measuring the amount of time required to make the pressure P higher than the predetermined pressure P1 with a timer, and storing a value indicated by the timer in the memory. Amano does not teach or imply comparing the difference to at least one predetermined value, and activating at least one timer *based on the difference*, as stated in dependent claims 3, 11, and 18.

Thus, claims 3, 11, and 18 of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Mazet and/or Amano. Combining these references fails to teach or yield the invention as claimed. The combination of these references fails to teach or suggest all the elements of the claim. Further, one of skill in the art would not be motivated to make such a combination. Therefore, the present invention is not obvious in light of any combination of Mazet and/or Amano.

Furthermore, claims 3, 11, and 18 are dependent upon an independent claim that is shown to be allowable. For all these reasons, the dependent claims are themselves allowable.

4. The above response is necessary because it places the application in condition for allowance and was not previously entered because the Examiner first brought the grounds of rejection in the Final Office Action.

5. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication may advance the prosecution of the present application. Notice of allowance of claims 1-20 is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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